

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SAM-01

DRC-01 CIEP-02 OMB-01 /128 W
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O R 121540Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0003

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

USINT ALGIERS

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

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USMISSION USUN

CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
DIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2941

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PO
SUBJ: SPINOLA ACCEPTS RESIGNATION OF PRIME MINISTER;
NEW GOVERNMENT TO BE FORMED

REF: LISBON 2894; LISBON 2876; LISBON 2850

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SPINOLA ON JULY 11 ACCEPTED PRIME MINISTER'S (PM) RESIGNATION AS WELL AS THOSE OF REST OF CABINET. WAY NOW CLEAR FOR APPOINTMENT (PERHAPS BY SATURDAY) OF NEW CABINET. IT APPEARS THAT NEW PRIME MINISTER, WHO WILL PROBABLY BE A MILITARY OFFICER, WILL HAVE POWER TO CHOOSE CABINET, AND WILL BE PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE TO PRESIDENT FOR FUNCTIONING OF GOVERNMENT. MANY OF MINISTERS WHO HAVE RESIGNED ARE EXPECTED TO BE IN NEW GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING ALVARO CUNHAL AND MARIO SOARES. CERTAIN KEY MINISTRIES SUCH AS LABOR, EDUCATION, SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION MAY BE FILLED BY MILITARY OFFICERS. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT PALMA CARLOS WILL NOW FORM A CENTER OR CENTER-RIGHT POLITICAL PARTY, BUT WE DO NOT RULE OUT HIS JOINING CENTRIST PPD FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. EVENING OF JULY 11, AFTER DAY OF INTENSIVE MEETINGS WITH POLITICIANS AND COUNCIL OF STATE, PRESIDENT SPINOLA ACCEPTED RESIGNATIONS OF PALMA CARLOS AND ASKED FOR AND RECEIVED RESIGNATIONS OF REST OF CABINET AS WELL. WAY IS NOW CLEAR FOR APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRIME MINISTER. IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL OF STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO ARMED FORCES PROGRAM (LAW 3/74) NEW PRIME MINISTER WILL BE ABLE SELECT HIS OWN CABINET. (UNDER PREVIOUS SYSTEM PRESIDENT
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CHOSE CABINET). THIS CHANGE WAS APPARENTLY THE ONLY ONE OF PALMA CARLOS'S PROPOSALS ACCEPTED BY COUNCIL.

2. PRESIDENT SPINOLA HAS SAID THAT NEW PM COULD BE PICKED AS EARLY AS SATURDAY JULY 13. SPECULATION IS THAT A MILITARY OFFICER WILL BE CHOSEN PRIME MINISTER, AND ATTENTION CENTERS ON FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER AND EX-SPINOLA AIDE IN GUINEA LTC MIGUEL.

3. OUR SOURCES GENERALLY BELIEVE MANY OF THOSE WHO HAVE RESIGNED WILL BE REAPPOINTED TO THE NEW CABINET, AND FEEL CERTAIN THAT ALVARO CUNHAL AND MARIO SOARES -- RESPECTIVELY COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS -- WILL BE IN NEXT GOVERNMENT. FIVE OR SIX FORMER MINISTERS WILL NOT BE BACK OR AT LEAST NOT IN SAME JOBS (JUNTA MEMBER GALVAO DE MELO PUBLICLY STATED THAT HE CONSIDERED AS MAY AS SIX MEMBERS OF PREVIOUS CABINET TO BE "INCOMPETENT"). THESE VACANCIES, WHICH MAY INCLUDE LABOR, SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS, INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION, EDUCATION, AND INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION COULD BE FILLED BY MILITARY OFFICERS. SIGNALS ARE MIXED AS TO WHETHER VIEIRA DE ALMEIDA WILL RETURN TO KEY ECONOMIC COORDINATION POST.

4. ALL MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE SUPPORTED COLLEGIALITY PRINCIPLE AS BASIS ON WHICH FUTURE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE FORMED. IT IS PROBABLE, THEREFORE, THAT ALL CURRENTS OF OPINION, IF NOT ALL FORMER PARTIES, WILL BE IN NEW CABINET. SOME SMALLER CONSERVATIVE PARTIES LIKE LIBERAL PARTY HAVE ASKED SPINOLA THAT THEY BE ALLOWED PLACE IN NEW CABINET AS REPRESENTATIVES OF CURRENTS OF OPINION NOT EXPRESSED IN OLD ONE. THIS ZISH MAY BE GRANTED.

5. PALMA CARLOS HAS SAID HE INTENDS TO FORM A POLITICAL PARTY. HE ALSO PLANS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PUBLISH TWO DOCUMENTS GIVING IN DETAIL REASONS FOR HIS RESIGNATION, WHICH, AS HE HAS SAID AND EMBASSY HAS REPORTED, REVOLVE AROUND COUNCIL OF STATE REFUSAL TO APPROVE THAT SECTION OF AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION (LAW 3/74) WHICH WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE EARLY ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND PROVIDE "NEEDED" LEGITIMACY TO GOVERNMENT. THE LISBON PRESS HAS BEEN HIGHLY CRITICAL OF PM
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FOR ROLE IN PROVOKING CURRENT CRISIS. SOCIALIST REPUBLICA CHARGES PM OF "ASKING COUNCIL OF STATE FOR EARLY ELECTION OF PRESIDENT WITHOUT PREVIOUSLY CONSULTING CABINET -- AN ATTITUDE WHICH CLEARLY BREAKS THE ESTABLISHED COLLEGIALITY PRINCIPLE". REPUBLICA GOES ON TO SAY THAT DIRECT AND QUICK ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AT THIS STAGE "COULD LEAD GREAT MASS OF PEOPLE TO SUPPORT ONLY ONE POLITICAL ORIENTATION, AND TO FOLLOW ONLY ONE CHARMATIC PERSONALITY". FURTHERMORE POSTPONEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS UNTIL A YEAR AND A HALF AFTER PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (WHICH PM ALSO WANTED) WOULD TERMENDOUSLY REINFORCE DURING THIS PERIOD PRESIDENT'S POSITION--AS THE ONLY PERSON LEGITIMIZED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE--AND WOULD LEAD TO AN "UNDESIRABLE" SUBORDINATION OF POLITICAL FORCES IN COALITION. ARTICLE ALSO SAYS

MEASURES PROPOSED BY PM WOULD LEAD TO RESTORATION OF
AUTHORITARIAN PRESIDENTIAL REGIME AGAINST SPIRIT OF
ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. LEFTIST DAILY DIARIO DE LISBOA
SAID "ONE THING APPEARS CLEAR AND THAT IS PRESENT CRISIS
HAS BEEN PROVOKED BY RIGHTIST SECTORS IN GOVERNMENT WITH
SUPPORT OF OTHER POLITICAL SECTORS".
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